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CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 035946

DEPARTMENT FOR P - DRUSSEL, EAP, EAP/CM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 8/10/2000
TAGS: OVIP (TARNOFF, PETER), PREL, OTRA, CH
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY TARNOFF'S TRAVEL TO CHINA:
CHINA PROPOSES AUGUST 26-27 FOR TALKS

REP: (A) BEXJING 35460, (B) STATE 186768

- 1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. MFA INFORMED EMBASSY ON AUGUST 10 THAT VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LI ZHAOXING WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE ON AUGUST

24-25, THE DATES PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR UNDER SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS IN BEIJING. MFA PROPOSED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS INSTEAD BE HELD ON AUGUST 26-27.

- 3. MFA ALSO OFFERED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING THE TRIP (REF B). THEY REQUEST THAT WE CHANGE "REVIEW A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES, "TO "REVIEW A NUMBER OF BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING TAIWAN." MFA SAID THAT, AFTER THIS CHANGE, PRESS STATEMENT LANGUAGE BETTER REFLECTED THE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND VICE PREMIER/FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN IN BRUNEI TO FOCUS ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF LEE TENG-HUI'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES.
- 4. PLEASE ADVISE RE: (A) OUR RESPONSE TO CHINA'S COUNTERPROPOSAL ON DATES, AND (B) ANY RESPONSE TO CHINA'S PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE PRESS STATEMENT.
- 5. COMMENT: THE REQUESTED CHANGE TO PRESS STATEMENT LANGUAGE REFLECTS BEIJING'S INTENTION TO KEEP THE TALKS FOCUSED ON TAIWAN. ON DATES, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE CHINESE COUNTERPROPOSAL FOR THE TIMING OF U/S TARNOFF'S VISIT REFLECTS GENUINE SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES IN VICE MINISTER LI'S SCHEDULE; MFA OFFICIALS ARE NOT WONT TO SCHEDULE WORK OVER A WEEKEND IF THEY CAN HELP IT. HALLFORD

PARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FPC/COR N	Date: 2/13/97
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